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Trade Unions and Churches Seen Having Similar Failings

(Manchester) - Increased exchange of ideas between unions and churches is advocated in a report just published in Manchester, England. The report is a result of discussions between trade union leaders and chaplains in a Manchester organisation for church-factory contacts called "Christianity in Industry".

Five points of similarity between churches and trade unions are listed. They are: the problems of adaptation to the modern world; large popular memberships most of which are nominal; leaders out of touch with the rank and file; a tendency to splinter and also to amalgamation; and members who do not practice what they preach.

The report, published with a grant from the Sir Stafford Cripps Memorial Trust, says that each of the organisations has much to learn from the other. The churches, it says, have a special task to keep before trade unions a sense of purpose in life while the trade unions must keep before the churches a sense of social righteousness and priority of fair dealing in human relationships.

The trade unionists agreed that they needed to rethink their position in the light of the more affluent and democratic society of today, but held that there is a tendency of churches to be dominated by their wealthier members. They said they found in the churches a failure to realize how much real poverty there still is, and how much insecurity about the future. The churchmen, on the other hand, said they felt that the trade unionists underestimated the depth of Christian teaching about brotherhood.

The study concluded that trade unions should be less prejudiced against churches, but churches should set a better example of unity among themselves and help their members to be more unbiased in approach to industrial disputes.

EPS, Geneva

Two New Staff Join WCC

(Geneva) - The appointments of two new staff members have been announced by the World Council of Churches.

Mr. Henry Makulu of Northern Rhodesia is the new assistant director of the Ecumenical Institute at Bossey, near Geneva. An outstanding Christian layman with special training in sociology, Mr. Makulu is the first African to be named on the Institute's staff. For the past four years he has been editor of the All-Africa Sunday School curriculum publications, a project of the World Council of Christian Education. Earlier he was youth director in Northern Rhodesia for the Church of Central Africa for two years. He is also the author of a number of books on African church life. He is a member of the United Church of Central Africa in Rhodesia.

Mr. Walter S. Kilpatrick, representative in Greece for Church World Service (USA) since 1956, has been named Secretary for Refugees and Director of the Service to Refugees in the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. A US citizen, Mr. Kilpatrick has been working in Europe since 1948. Before taking the CWS post in Athens he was for eight years senior representative in Germany and Austria for the YMCA and YWCA. Earlier he worked with the YMCA aid to war prisoners programme. He is a member of the United Church of Christ (USA).

EPS, Geneva

Churches Feed 100,000 Daily in Korea

(New York) - More than 80,000 needy people in South Korea receive one hot meal daily at 132 feeding stations set up by Korean Church World Service.

In addition about 20,000 refugees from North Korea are given daily hot meals while they are building houses and roads or starting farms in self-help projects.

A report on the programme, the largest single continuing overseas rehabilitation work underwritten by US Protestant churches, was given by the Rev. Hallam Shorrock, KCWS director, to a meeting of Church World Service in New York. He said that in 1959 alone KCWS represented an investment of \$6,000,000 in cash and contributed goods.

The programme also includes tuberculosis control at 16 out-patient clinics which have treated ten thousand cases since January 1954 and an amputee project which helped 276 patients last year. Other aid is given to war widows, to orphanages and to homes for single girls.

Mr. Shorrock predicted that the future would see a gradual assimilation of the programmes by Korean agencies, thus releasing funds and supplies for other world areas in need. Co-operating with KCWS in Korea in addition to CWS are also several member churches of the World Council of Churches.

EPS, Geneva

Office for Women in Norwegian Church

(Oslo) - The Bishops of the Norwegian Lutheran National Church are supporting a proposal for establishing a new office in the church which would be open for women divinity graduates without ordination.



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The office would include providing house to house visitation, youth and education work, Bible study and similar assignments.

The new office has been viewed by many church leaders as a device to prevent the issue of women pastors from coming to a head. It has been legally possible for several years for women to take orders in Norway, but so far no woman has asked for ordination.

EPS, Geneva

UN Official Reports on Refugee Aid

(Geneva) - The number of refugees living in camps/^{in Europe} was reduced from 20,600 to 17,600 during the first half of this year. An even greater number will probably be resettled during the second six months, according to Dr. Auguste Lindt, UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

Dr. Lindt told the fourth session of the 15-member Executive Committee of his office that financing of the UN's camp clearance programme was now totally assured, provided that some firm promises of help become formal pledges.

He reported that about 1,400 handicapped refugees had emigrated under special World Refugee Year schemes between July and September of this year, and that there were "strong indications" that countries which had provided resettlement opportunities and had liberalized their selection criteria during WRY would continue to do so.

EPS, Geneva

Church-State Relations Defined

(New York) - The American concept of church-state separation has never meant that churches and synagogues should not seek to influence legislation. On the contrary, they have a responsibility to keep the public conscience "instructed and disturbed", Dean John C. Bennett of Union Theological Seminary, had told a meeting in New York.

"Churches are interested in laws that protect the weak against the strong", he said, "that humanize punishment, that give to all children access to education and the means of health and that safeguard, the freedom of persons.

"They are interested in the state's responsibility to keep order so that men are preserved from violence. They are interested in a foreign policy by which our country seeks to help other nations find their way to a better standard of living and to political and cultural and spiritual freedom. They are deeply concerned about peace between nations."

Churches to not have "a monopoly of concern" about these issues, he said, but "they can do much to provide the resources which enable a nation to achieve them".

Parallel to the "wide areas of a common Christian conscience", Dr. Bennett said, "there is the need of restraint on the part of the churches when it comes to imposing their own distinctive conceptions of the moral law by legislation on the whole community".

The Protestant leader praised Father Gustave Weigel S.J., noted Jesuit theologian, for "helping clear the air" with his statement that a Roman Catholic office holder "takes his lead from the consensus of the community" in matters of morals (see EPS No. 37).

Dean Bennett added: "I do not, of course, speak for him, but I do not think that he means that on all moral matters any church, least of all his own, should leave the consensus where it happens to be. The churches - both Protestant and Roman Catholic - should try to raise the level of consensus."

Dr. Bennett addressed the Fall Delegate Assembly of the Manhattan Division of the Protestant Council of the City of New York.

EPS, Geneva

Continued Rise in US Church Membership

EMBARGO:

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(New York) - US church membership continues to climb, according to new figures compiled by the National Council of Churches.

Total church membership in 1959 rose to 112,226,905 persons - or 63.4 per cent of the population - the largest percentage ever recorded. It represents an increase of 2,669,164 new members or a 2.4 per cent rise over the number of communicants in 1958.

The figures, as reported by 254 religious bodies, are given in the Yearbook of American Churches for 1961 scheduled for publication October 24.

The total Protestant membership reported by 226 bodies was 62,543,502, an increase of 1.7 per cent. Roman Catholic church figures taken from the Official Catholic Directory show a membership of 40,871,302 - an increase of 3.4 per cent.

Protestant membership represents 35.3 per cent of the total population. Roman Catholics constitute 23.1 per cent of the total.

The steady growth of US church membership is revealed in a table relating membership to population. In 1850 only 16 per cent of the population were members. By 1900 the figures had risen to 36 per cent. In 1940 it was 49 per cent. In 1955 it was 61 per cent.

EPS, Geneva

Serious Crimes in US Reach All-Time High in 1959

(Washington, D.C.) - Crime in the United States also reached an all-time high in 1959. In the same period as church membership moved up to its highest point in history, the number of arrests for serious offenses rose to 1,500,000 - according to statistics issued by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Bureau said the increase in crime is not merely keeping pace with the population growth, but is increasing four times as fast as the population. Greatest increase was in the number of juvenile offenders. In 1959 arrests of juveniles increased four per cent and represented 12 per cent of all of the year's arrests. From 1948 to 1959 the arrests of young people increased six times as fast as arrests of persons who had reached their 18th birthday.

EPS, Geneva

South African Clergy Ask Constitutional Reform

(Benoni, South Africa) - The annual conference of the Interdenominational African Ministers' Federation has called upon the South African government to convene "a fully representative" national convention to discuss constitutional reforms.

In a resolution adopted at a recent meeting the Federation said that in its "considered opinion ... the problems of race relations and of peaceful co-existence in this a multi-racial country can only be resolved by the introduction of constitutional reforms based upon the broad principles of the Christian faith .."

It said such reforms could only be arrived at at a new national convention which would be "fully representative of the several racial groups of the Union population". The Federation is representative of African churches throughout the Union.

EPS, Geneva

Churches Send Aid to Congo, Other Emergencies

(Geneva) - Funds totaling \$26,540 have been contributed by churches in four countries for aid in the Congo, in response to an appeal by the World Council of Churches.

The funds, which will be channeled through the relief agency of the Congo Protestant Council, come from churches in: Great Britain, \$14,000; Canada, \$10,000; New Zealand, \$1,400; Australia, \$560; and from various individual donors, \$580. Earlier Church World Service (USA) shipped in medical supplies valued at \$8,925.

Immediate needs reported here include 20,000 blankets and corn and manioc which can be purchased locally with contributed funds, and 500 tons of whole milk, as well as antibiotics, other medicines and soap for hospitals.

Contributions to other current WCC appeals reported last week by its Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees included: \$49,000 for Tibetan refugees from churches in Great Britain, \$42,000; Lutheran World Federation, \$5,000; and the Evangelical and Reformed Church (USA), \$2,000.

Also \$30,385 for Burma famine victims from churches in Great Britain, \$14,000; the USA, \$9,000; Germany, \$5,760; New Zealand, \$1,395; and \$230 from various individual donors. Aid to help rebuild typhoon-damaged churches in the Philippines also came from the British churches, \$5,300, and New Zealand, \$1,022.

EPS, Geneva

South African Presbyterians Reject Proposal for Dual Moderators

(Pietermaritzburg, Natal) - A proposal that it have two moderators - one African and one European - has been rejected by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of South Africa.

The Assembly turned down the motion by a vote of 54 to 50 votes despite the fact that it had the support of both the retiring moderator, the Rev. A.H. Munro, and the moderator-elect, the Rev. A. de Villiers.

The Rev. G. Molefe, who spoke in opposition to the proposal, told the Assembly that in his view of the situation in South Africa the time had not yet come for the appointment of an African moderator.

African members outnumber the Europeans by more than 50,000. Most recent membership figures show 100,800 Europeans, 154,000 Africans and approximately 3,000 "coloureds".

EPS, Geneva

Roman Catholic Memo Supports Yugoslav Law

(Belgrade) - The Conference of Roman Catholic Bishops of Yugoslavia has submitted a memorandum to the Yugoslav government affirming loyalty of its members to the state and giving support to a 1953 law defining church-state relationships.

The memorandum represents the first initiative of its kind by the church since the break in Vatican-government relations in 1952. When the law was adopted, the Conference had expressed serious reservations about it and had refused to answer government request for comments about it.

The Conference now states that in its view the law is competent to "assure the normal development of relations between the Church and state". The memorandum was signed by Monseigneur Ujcic, Archbishop of Belgrade on behalf of the Conference and forwarded to the president of the Federal Commission for Religious Questions.

According to an article in Le Monde, Paris daily, datelined from Belgrade, the memorandum is generally believed to have Vatican support. Le Monde said the memorandum represents a gradual evolution in the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church to the government. It pointed out that since John XXIII became Pope, relations between the Vatican and the Yugoslav government have "increasingly improved". It cites as an example the fact that eight new Yugoslav bishops appointed by the Pope have all been accepted by the government.

The government has also relaxed controls on foreign travel for church prelates. It recently granted passports to five bishops to attend a Eucharistic Congress in Munich, Germany, and has also permitted several to visit the Vatican. It has also bestowed honours on several bishops. All of this has served to considerably reduce tensions between the Church and the government, according to Le Monde.

The 1953 law gives sanction to religious groups to carry on their work, including religious instruction, provided it is in accord with the Yugoslav constitution and not for "political ends and fomentation of religious hatred and intolerance". The Roman Catholic Church is the second largest religious group in Yugoslavia. It has 6,000 churches in 2,500 parishes, the majority in the northwestern areas of Croatia and Slovenia, and 12 secondary schools, five theological schools and two Faculties of Theology. The largest church in Yugoslavia is the Orthodox church.

EPS, Geneva

Norwegian Women Protest Birth Control Propaganda

(Oslo) - The Norwegian National Women's Association has asked the College of Bishops of the Lutheran Church to use its influence in combatting propaganda for birth control and legalized abortion. The issues are currently being debated in the Norwegian parliament.

In a letter to the bishops, the Association, whose membership is Protestant, declared that both birth control and abortion are contrary to the Christian Gospel, and criticized "too much tolerance" on the subjects by the Lutheran clergy.

It said marriages without the responsibility for or expectation of children will supply "yet another reason" for early marriages and thereby increase the number of divorces. It also said the wilfull avoidance of motherhood is responsible for the neurotic ailments of many women.

Further, it said, the reduction of the birth rate in Norway, which already has a small population, would be regrettable because of the nation's valuable cultural heritage and its responsibility for exerting its best influence on the world scene.

EPS, Geneva

Inter-Communion Issues Must Be Faced, Churches Told

(Paris) - A noted French theologian and author has declared that the churches are "absolutely forced to answer" and would be "failing in their duty" if they don't come to grips with the question of inter-communion raised by the European Ecumenical Youth Assembly held at Lausanne, Switzerland, last July.

Professor Roger Mehl, of the University of Strasbourg, writing in Réforme, French Protestant weekly, says, "It is the churches' duty to reply to the question raised by the young people. They cannot take refuge in prudent silence. They would be failing in their duty if they kept silence and left their young members in uncertainty. They must answer yes or no." He adds:

"Neither the argument 'you don't know everything; we are much more deeply divided than you realize' nor the argument to have patience, has any validity.

"At various conferences and meetings these young people have experienced a unity which they cannot forget. Arguments for patience and prudence have been used for over a century and are merely a camouflage for a sterile impasse."

Dr. Mehl said the question has particular urgency because of the forthcoming Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches to be held late next year in New Delhi, India. "How are we going to behave there?" he asks. "Will we be in the same divided state as we were at Evanston?" (the WCC's Second Assembly in 1954). "That would be serious in (relationships with) the young churches in Asia who may well raise the same awkward question ..."

A message adopted by the 1800 youth at the Lausanne Assembly regretted that "here in Lausanne we have not all been able to join together in Holy Communion". It asked the churches and the World Council to "work seriously toward the establishment of an increasingly inclusive inter-communion". (See EPS No. 29)

The World Council of Churches' Central Committee meeting in St. Andrews, Scotland, in August "rejoiced in the seriousness and enthusiasm" of the youth and asked its member churches to give "careful attention" to the matter. After discussions, the Committee voted to confirm the formula of the World Faith and Order Conference in Lund, Sweden (1952), which said that open communion services at ecumenical gatherings should be held where possible on the invitation of a local church or churches which sanction such services. EPS, Geneva

Second European Conference Stresses Unity

(Nyborg, Denmark) - More than 120 representatives of European Protestant, Anglican and Orthodox churches met in the Danish seacoast town of Nyborg last week, October 3-7, to discuss ways in which they can co-operate more closely.

The event was the Second Conference of European Churches. It was the most representative gathering of European churchmen ever held. Present were leaders from churches in 22 countries, including many bodies which are not members of the World Council of Churches. Nine official delegates came from the Russian Orthodox Church. The British Council of Churches, which sent only one delegate to the First Conference, this time sent seven. The Orthodox Church of Cyprus also sent a delegate for the first time. A number of churches-in-exile were also represented.

Theme of the Conference was set by its general secretary, Dr. Egbert Emmen of the Dutch Reformed Church, in his opening address. "We belong together and we will stay together", he said.

The delegates discussed a wide range of common concerns in plenary and group sessions marked by what one observer called "a strong sense of their essential unity".

At the meeting's end, they had agreed that while they wished to continue the present form of their loose affiliation in the Conference, there should be considerably more exchange and co-operation between annual Conference sessions.

They voted a budget of 30,000 DM (\$7,195) to finance publication of a quarterly bulletin and study materials for the next conference, scheduled for September, 1962, also in Nyborg.

The Conference also took action to enlarge its executive board from three to five, to make it more representative. The two new members named were the Anglican Bishop the Rt. Rev. Leslie Hunter of Sheffield, England, and Russian Orthodox Exarch for Central Europe, Bishop Johann Wendland, a member of the USSR delegation. The three other members are Dr. Emmen, Bishop Hanns Lilje, Lutheran, Hannover, Germany, and Archbishop Jan Kiivit, of Estonia, also a member of the USSR delegation.

The Conference also added five new members - for a total of 15 - to the preparatory group planning the next conference, and re-elected Dr. Hans Harms, Lutheran, Hamburg, Germany, as Conference Secretary.

In a formal resolution the Conference reiterated its earlier appeal to statesmen "to liberate the world from the menace of atomic warfare" and "the abolition of all forms of force".

Present cold-war hostilities, it said, should be replaced with "the principle of co-operation" in which the resources now underwriting defense would be used to aid the world's needy. "If this common task (of aiding the needy) is recognized and tackled with determination, we venture to hope that many of the tensions in the world today will be relieved ... and the first and perhaps decisive step will have been taken on the road to peace", it declared.

EPS, Geneva

In Brief

New church membership figures in Finland show the biggest proportionate rise recorded by Jehovah's Witnesses. The sect gained 1,000 new members last year for a total of 6,800 persons. The Orthodox Church membership decreased by 700 to 72,000 persons. The Lutheran National Church increased by 28,000 to 4,337,600 persons. The number of people not belonging to any religious community was recorded at 282,000.

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For the first time, the Anglican Church in Wales will appoint assistant bishops to help relieve bishops of their burden of work. The plan, largely prompted by the laity, allows the appointment of one or more assistants, subject to the approval of the majority of the six-member bench of bishops. The assistants will have no right of succession and will have only the powers invested in them by the commission from the bishop.

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Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin, chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), will pay a visit to His All Holiness, Athenagoras, the Ecumenical Patriarch, on a trip to Istanbul.

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The bishops of the Lutheran National Council in Norway have recommended that permission be given for laymen to assist at the Eucharist when needed. The proposal says that ministers in consultation with the parish council may nominate as the assistant a layman who commands general confidence in the congregation.

EPS, Geneva

